

## LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

Bampfylde-Moore Carew,

COMMONLY CALLED

*The KING of the BEGGARS :*

BEING

An impartial Account of his LIFE, from his leaving Tiverton School at the Age of Fifteen and entering into a Society of Gipsies ; wherein the Motives of his Conduct are related and explained :

The great number of Characters and Shapes he has appeared in through Great Britain, Ireland, and several other places of Europe : with his Travels through great part of America :

GIVING A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

Of the Origin, Government, Laws, and Customs of the Gipsies, with the Method of electing their King.

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## LIFE AND ADVENTURES

## Bampfylde-Moore Carew

**M**R Bampfylde Moore Carew was descended from the ancient family of the Carews, son of the Rev. Mr. Theodore Carew, of the parish of Brickly near Tiverton, in the county of Devon; of which parish he was many years a rector, very much esteemed while living, and at his death universally lamented. Our hero was born in the month of July, 1693; and never was there known a more splendid appearance of gentlemen and ladies of the first rank at any baptism in the west of England, than at his: the Hon. Hugh Bampfylde and the Hon. Major Moore, were both his illustrious god fathers, both of whose names he bears; who some time contending who should be the president, (doubtless prefiging the honour that should redound to them from the future actions of our hero) the affair was determined by throwing up a piece of money which was won by Mr. Bampfylde; who, upon this account presented a large piece of plate, whereon was engraved, in large letters, BAMPFYLDE MOORE CAREW.

The Rev. Mr. Carew had several other children, both sons and daughters, besides Mr. Carew, all of whom he educated in a tender and pious manner; and Mr. Carew was, at the age of twelve, sent to Tiverton school where he contracted an intimate acquaintance with young gentlemen of the first rank in Somersetshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, and Dorsetshire.

To gratify any propensity in the mind of our reader about the person of the hero whose actions they are reading; the following is his description:

The stature of our hero is tall and majestic, his limbs strong and well proportioned, his features regular, his countenance open and ingenuous, bearing all those characteristical marks which physiognomists assert denote an honest and good natured mind.

During the first four years of his continuance at Tiverton school, his close application and delight in his studies gave his friends great hopes that he might one day make a good figure in that honourable profession which his father became so well, and for which he was designed.

He attained, for his age, a very considerable knowledge in the Latin and Greek tongues; but soon a new exercise, or accomplishment, engaged all his attention; this was that of hunting, in which our hero soon made a surprising progress; for besides that agility of limbs, and courage requisite for leaping over five barred gates, &c. our hero, by indefatigable study and application, added to it a remarkable cheering halloo to the dogs, of very great service to the exercise, and which we believe is peculiar to himself; and besides this, found out a secret, hitherto unknown, but to himself, of enticing any dogs whatever to follow him.

The Tiverton scholars had at this time the command of a fine cry of hounds whereby Mr. Carew had frequent opportunities of gratifying his inclinations in that diversion. It was then that he entered into a very strict friendship and familiarity with John Martin Thomas Coleman, John Elson, and other young gentlemen of the best rank and fortune.

It happened that a farmer, living in the country adjacent to Tiverton, who was a very great sportsman, and used to hunt with the Tiverton scholars, came and acquainted them of a fine deer, which he had seen with a collar about its neck, in the fields near his farm, which he supposed to be the favourite deer of some gentleman not far off; this was very a-

greeable news to the Tiverton scholars, who, with Mr. Carew, John Martin, Thomas Coleman, and John Escott, at their head, went in a great body to hunt it: this happened a short time before the harvest; the chase was very hot, and lasted several hours and they ran the deer many miles, which did a great deal of damage to the fields of corn, which were then almost ripe. Upon the death of the deer, and examination of the collar, it was found to belong to Col. Nutcombe, of the parish of Clayhanger. Those farmers and gentlemen that sustained the greatest damages, came to Tiverton, and complained very heavily to Mr. Rayner, the schoolmaster, of the havoc made in their fields, which occasioned strict inquiry to be made concerning the ringleaders, who proving to be our hero and his companions, they were so severely threatened, that, for fear, they absented themselves from school; and the next day, happening to go in the evening to an alehouse about half a mile from Tiverton, they accidentally fell into company with a society of Gipsies, who were there feasting and carousing. This society consisted of seventeen or eighteen persons of both sexes, who that day met there with a full purpose of merriment and jollity; and after a plentiful meal upon fowls, ducks, and other dainty dishes, the flowing cups of October, cyder, &c. went most cheerfully round, and merry songs and country dances crowned the jovial banquet: in short, so great an air of freedom, mirth, and pleasure, appeared in the faces and gestures of this society, that our youngsters conceived a sudden inclination to mix into their company; which when they communicated to the gipsies, they, considering their appearance, behaviour and education, regarded as only spoken in jest; but as they tarried all night in their company, and continued in the same resolution next morning, they were induced to believe them to be serious, and accordingly encouraged them, and admitted them into their number.



the requisite ceremonials being first gone through, and the proper oaths administered.

The reader may perhaps be surpris'd at the mention of oaths administered, and ceremonials used at the entrance of these young gentlemen; but his surprise will lessen when we inform him, that these people are subject to a form of government and laws peculiar to themselves, and all pay obedience to one who is styled their King; (to which great honour we shall hereafter see our hero arrive, having first proved himself worthy of it, by a great number of necessary achievements.)

The only advantage the king enjoys is that he is constantly supplied with whatever is necessary for his maintenance from the contribution of his people; whilst he, in return, directs all his care to the defending and protecting his people from their enemies, in contriving and planning whatever is most likely to promote their welfare and happiness, in seeing a due regard paid to their laws, in registering their memorable actions, and making a due report of all these things at their general assemblies.

The laws of these people are few and simple, but most exactly and punctually observed; the fundamental of which is, that strong love and mutual regard for each member in particular, and for the whole community in general, which is inculcated into them from their earliest infancy; so that this whole community is connected by stronger bands of love and harmony, than oftentimes subsist even in private families under other governments.

They know no other use of money except that of promoting mirth and good humour, for which end they generously bring their gains into a common stock, whereby they whose gains are small have an equal share of enjoyment with those whose profits are larger, excepting only that a mark of ignominy is affixed on those who do not contribute to the common stock pro-

portionably to their abilities, and the opportunities they have of gain: and this is the source of their uninterrupted happiness; for by this means they have no griping desire to grind them, nor any envyings to torment them: they have no settled habitations, but (like the Scythians of old) remove from place to place, as often as their conveniency or pleasure requires it, which renders their life a perpetual scene of the greatest variety.

By what we have said above, and much more that we could add of the happiness of these people, we may account for what has been matter of much surprize to the friends of our hero, viz. his strong attachment, for the space of above forty years, to this community, and his refusing the large offers that have been made him to quit their society — But to return to our history.

Thus was Mr. Carew initiated into the mysteries of a society, which for antiquity needs give place to none, as it evident from the name, which in Latin is called *Egyptus*, and in French *Egyptienne*, that they derive their original from the Egyptians, one of the most ancient and learned people in the world; and every body knows that they were persons of more than common learning, who travelled to communicate their knowledge to mankind. Mr. Carew did not continue long in it before he was consulted in important matters; particularly, Madam Musgrove of Monkton, near Taunton, hearing of his fame, sent for him to consult in an affair of difficulty: when he was come, she informed him, that she suspected a large quantity of money was buried somewhere about her house, and if he would acquaint her with the particular place, she would handsomely reward him.

Our hero consulted the secrets of his art upon this occasion; and after long toil and study, informed her that under a laurel tree in the garden lay the treasure she sought; but that her planet of good fortune did not reign till such a day and hour, till which time

she should desist from searching for it: the good lady rewarded him very generously with twenty guineas for his discovery: we cannot tell whether at this time our hero was sufficiently initiated in the art, or whether the lady mistook her lucky hour, but the strict regard we pay to truth obliges us to confess, that the lady dug below the roots of the laurel tree without finding the hidden treasure.

We are now entering into the busy part of our hero's life, where we shall find him acting in various characters, and performing all with propriety, dignity, and decorum. — We shall therefore rather choose to account for some of the actions of our hero, by desiring the reader to keep in mind the principals of the government of the mendicants, which are like those of the Algerines, and other states of Barbary, a perpetual state of hostility with most other people so that whatsoever stratagems or decess they can over reach them by, are not only allowed by their laws, but considered as commendable and praise-worthy: thus the Algerines are looked upon as a very honest people by those who are in alliance with them, though they plunder the rest of mankind: the government of the gipies in general and our hero as a member of it, will not appear in so advantageous a light, for exercising a few stratagems to over-reach their enemies, especially when it is considered they never do any harm to the persons of their enemies, and nothing considerable to their fortunes.

Our hero being again admitted at the first general assembly of the gipies, and having taken the proper oaths of allegiance to the sovereign, was soon after sent out by him on a cruise upon their enemies. Our hero's wit was now set a work, by what stratagems he might best succeed: the first that occurred to his thoughts, was the equipping of himself with an old pair of trowsers, enough of a jacket to cover his nakedness, stockings such as nature gave, shoes for rather



(20)

the body of shoes, for soles they had none,) which had leaks enough to sink a first rate man of war, and a woollen cap so black, that one might safely swear it had not been washed since Noah's flood. Being thus attired, our hero changed his manners with his dress; he forgot entirely his family, education, and politeness, and became now nothing more nor less than an unfortunate shipwrecked seaman.

Our hero, so fully put on the character of a shipwrecked seaman, that in his first excursion he gained a very considerable booty, having likewise ingeniously imitated the passes and certificates that were necessary for him to travel unmolested. After about a month's travel, he accidentally, at Kingsbridge, in Devonshire, met with Coleman, his school fellow, one of those who had entered with him into the community, as before related, but had after a year and a half's abode with them, left them, and returned to his friends; but not finding that satisfaction among them, as with the gipsies had again joined that people; great was the joy of these two friends at their meeting, and they soon agreed to travel together for some time; and accordingly proceeded to Totness, and from thence to the city of Exeter: entering that city, they raised a contribution there in one day, amounting to several pounds.

Having obtained all he could desire from this stratagem, his faithful invention soon hinted another. He now became the plain honest country farmer, who, living in the Isle of Sheppy, in Kent, had the misfortune to have his grounds overflowed, and all his cattle drowned. His habit was now neat but rustic; his air and behaviour simple and inoffensive: his speech in Kentish dialect; his countenance dejected; his tale pitiful; nay, wondrous pitiful; a wife and seven helpless infants being partakers of his misfortunes; in short, never did that excellent actor, Mr Garrick, personate any character more just; nor did he ever raise strong

2 A



er emotions of pity in the character of the unfortunate good King Lear, than our hero did under this : so that if his former stratagem answered his wishes, this still did more so, he now getting seldom less than a guinea a day.

Having raised a very considerable booty by these two stratagems, he made the best of his way towards Straton in Devonshire, where was soon to be held a general assembly of the gipsies : here he was received with the greatest applause, on account of the successful stratagems he had executed, and he had an honourable mark of distinction bestowed upon him, in being seated near the king.

Though our hero, by means of these stratagems, abounded with all the pleasure he could desire, yet he began now to reflect within himself, on that grand and noble maxim of life, that we are not born for ourselves only, but indebted to all mankind, to be of as great use and service to them, as our capacities and abilities will enable us to be : he therefore gave a handsome gratuity to an expert and famous rat catcher, to be initiated into that, and the still more useful secret of curing madness in dogs or cattle.

Our hero, by his close application, soon attained so considerable a knowledge in his profession, that he practised with much success and applause, to the great advantage of the public in general, not confining the good effects of his knowledge to his own community only, but extending them universally to all sorts of people, wheresoever they were wanted.

Mr Carew's invention being never at a loss, he again formed a new stratagem : to execute which, he exchanged his habit, shirt, &c. for only an old blanket, shoes and stockings he laid aside, because they did not suit his present purpose. Being thus accoutred, or rather unaccoutred, he was now no more than poor Mad Tom, whom the foul fiend has led through fire and through flame, through ford and whirlpool, over bog

and quagmire; that hath laid knives under his pillow,  
and halberds in his pew; set a raw-bone by his porridge;  
made him proud at heart to ride on a bay trotting  
horse over four-reched bridges; to curse his own shadow  
for a traitor; who eats the swimming frog, the toad,  
the rat-poll; the wall newt; and the water-hewer; that  
in the fury of his heart, when the foul fiend rages,  
swallows the old rat and ditch-dog, drinks the green  
animal off the standing pool; O ye beggarming  
of this Andmire and rat; and such small gear; as must  
make Have been Tom's food for seven long years.

O do, de, de, de, do de; bless thee from whirlwind,  
fiar blasting, and faking; do poor Tom some charity,  
whom the foul fiend vexes; there could I have him  
roast and there and there again; and there; through  
the sharp hawthorn blows the cold wind; Tom's a cold;  
who gives any thing to poor Tom?—in this charac-  
ter, and with such like expressions, our hero centered  
the house both of great and small, claiming kindred  
to them and committing all manner of frantick actions;  
such as heating himself, offering to eat coals of fire, tun-  
ning against the wall, and tearing to pieces whatever  
garbents was given him to cover his nakedness; by  
which means he raised very considerable contributions.

It has been remarked, that curiosity, or the desire of  
knowledge, is that which most distinguishes man from  
the brute; and the greater the mind in the more insati-  
able is that passion: we may, without flattery, say none  
had a more boundless one than our hero; for not satis-  
fied with the observations he had made in England and  
Wales (which we are well assured were many more  
than are usually made by gentlemen before they tra-  
vel into the foreign parts), he now resolved to see  
other countries and manners. He was the more in-  
clined to this, as he imagined it would enable him to  
be of greater service to the community of which he was  
a member, by rendering him capable of executing some

of his stratagems with much greater success. He communicated this design to his school fellow Escott, one of those who commenced a gipsy with him (for neither of the four wholly quitted that community.) Escott very readily agreed to accompany him in his travels, and there being a ship ready to sail for Newfoundland, lying at Dartmouth, where they then were, they agreed to embark on board her, being called the Main-sail, commanded by Captain Hildworth. Nothing remarkable happened in their passage which relates to our hero; we shall therefore pass by it, and land them safe in Newfoundland.

The fishing season being over, and our hero having made all the observations that he thought might be useful to him, returned again in the Main-sail to Dartmouth, from whence he had first sailed, bringing with him a surprising fierce and large dog, which he had enticed to follow him, and made as gentle as a lamb, by an art which is peculiar to himself. Our hero was received with very great joy by his fellow gipsies, and they were loud in his praises, when they understood he had undertaken this voyage to enable him to deceive his enemies with the greater success. He accordingly, in a few days, went out on a cruise in the character of a shipwrecked seaman, lost in a vessel homeward bound from Newfoundland, sometimes belonging to Pool, sometimes to Dartmouth, at other times to other ports, and under such or such commander, according as the newspapers gave account of such melancholy accidents.

If the booty he got before under this character was considerable, it was much more so now, for being able to give an exact account of Newfoundland, the settlements, harbours, &c. he applied with great confidence to masters of vessels, and gentlemen well ac-

acquainted with those parts; so that those whom before his prudence would not permit him to apply to, now became his greatest benefactors, as the perfect account he gave of the country engaged them to credit all he asserted, and made them very liberal in his favour.

It was about this time that our hero became sensible of the power of love; we mean of that sort which has more of the mind than the body, and is tender, delicate, and constant; the object of which remains constantly fixed in the mind, like the arrow in the wounded deer, and that will not admit of any partner with it. It was in the town of Newcastle, so famous for its coal works, which our hero visited out of curiosity, appearing there undisguised, and making a very genteel appearance, that he became enamoured with the daughter of Mr. G—y, an eminent apothecary and surgeon there: this young lady had charms perhaps equal to any of her sex; and they wholly effaced every object, which before had created any desire in him, and never permitted any other to raise them afterwards. We have, often after about thirty years enjoyment, seen him lament her with tears, and talk of her with all the fondness of one who had been in love but three days. Our hero tried all love's soft persuasions with his fair one in an honourable way; and as his person was very engaging, and his appearance genteel, he did not find her greatly averse to his proposals. As he was aware that his being of the community of the gipsies might prejudice her against him without examination, he passed with her for the mate of a collier's vessel in which he was supported by Captain L—n of Dartmouth an old acquaintance of our heroes, who then commanded a vessel lying at Newcastle, and acknowledged him for his mate. These assertions satisfied the young lady very well, and she at length consented to exchange the tender care and love of a parent for that of a husband, and venture on board Captain L—n's vessel with her lover.



The lover and his fair one being on board, they soon hoisted sail, and the very winds being willing to favour these two happy lovers, they had an exceeding quick passage to Dartmouth, where they landed. Our hero being now no longer able to conceal his being a member of the community of the gipsies, after some previous introduction, declared it to the young lady, who was not a little surprised and troubled at it; but she soon composed her mind, by suggesting to her the worthy family her lover was sprung from; that the community of the gipsies was more happy and less disreputable than she imagined, that the person of her lover was quite amiable, and that he had good nature and love enough to make her happy in any condition.

As these suggestions entirely satisfied her, the lovers in a few days set out for Bath, where they lawfully solemnized their nuptials with great gaiety and splendour, and were those two persons whom the old standers at Bath must needs remember to have made such an eclat about thirty years ago, though no body at that time could conjecture who they were, which was the occasion of much speculation, and many false surmises.

Our lovers having left Bath, paid a visit to an uncle of our hero's, living then at Dorchester, near Gosport, who was a clergyman of distinguished merit and character; here they were received with great politeness and hospitality, and abode a considerable time, and though his uncle made him very lucrative offers for the present, and future promises of making him heir to all his possessions, yet remembering his engagements with the gipsies, he rejected them all; and reflecting now that he had long lived useless to that community, he began to prepare for his departure from his uncle's, in order to make some excursions on the enemy; and to do this with more effect, he bethought himself of a new stratagem. He therefore equips himself in a long loose black gown, puts on a band, a large white petticoat, and a broad rimmed hat; his whole deport-

ment was agreeable to his dress; his pace was solemn and slow, his countenance thoughtful and grave, his eyes turned on the ground, but now and then raised in seeming ejaculations to heaven; in every look and action he betrayed his want; but at the same time seemed overwhelmed with that shame which modest merit feels, when it is obliged to solicit the cold hand of charity. This behaviour excited the curiosity of many gentlemen, clergy, &c. to inquire into the circumstances of his misfortune; but it was with difficulty they could engage him to relate them, it being with much seeming reluctance that he acquainted them with his having exercised for many years the sacred office of a clergyman at Aberrubith, a parish in Wales, but that the government changing, he had preferred quitting his benefice, though he had a wife and several children, to taking an oath contrary to his principles and conscience. This relation he accompanied with frequent sighs, deep marks of adoration of the ways of Providence, and warm expressions of his firm trust and reliance in its goodness and faithfulness, with high encomiums on the inward satisfaction of a good conscience. When he discoursed with any clergyman, or other person of literature, he would now and then introduce some Latin or Greek sentences, that were applicable to what he was talking of, which gave his hearers an high opinion of his learning; all this, and his thorough knowledge of those persons whom it was proper to apply to, made this stratagem succeed even beyond his expectations. But now hearing of a vessel bound to Philadelphia, on board of which were many Quakers, being cast away on the coast of Ireland, he laid aside his gown, cassock and band, clothed himself in a plain suit, pulled the button from his hat, and flaps it on every side: his countenance was now demure, his language unadorned with any flowers of speech, and the words You and Sir he seemed to hold in abomination; his hat was moved

to none, for though under misfortunes, he would not think of bowing the knee to Baal.

With these qualifications, he addressed himself to persons of the denomination of Quakers with great success: (for indeed it were to be wished that all other sects would imitate them in their readiness to relieve their brethren) and hearing that there was to be a great meeting of them from all parts, at a place called Thorncombe, in Devonshire, he makes the best of his way thither; and with a demure look, and modest assurance, enters the assembly, where making his case known, and satisfying them by his behaviour, of his being one of their sect, they made a very considerable contribution for his relief.

So active was the mind of our hero that he was never more happy than when engaged in some adventure or other; therefore, when he had no opportunity of putting any great stratagem in execution, he would amuse himself with those which did not require so great a share of art and ingenuity. Whenever he heard of any melancholy accident by fire, he immediately repaired to the place where it happened, and there remarking very accurately the spot, inquiring into the cause of it, and getting an exact information of the trades, characters, families, and circumstances of the unhappy sufferers, he immediately assumed the person and name of one of them; and burning some part of his coat and hat, as an ocular demonstration of his narrow escape, he made the best of his way to some distance and there passed for one who had been burnt out; and to give the greater credit, shewed a paper signed with the names of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood of the place where the fire happened, recommending him as an honest unhappy sufferer, by which he got considerable sums. Under this character he had once the boldness to address Justice Hall of Exmouth, in Devon, the terror and professed ene-

Devon saw and did, with a mode of life of Exmouth

my of every order of the gipsies: however our hero so artfully managed, (though he went through a strict examination) that he at last convinced his worship that he was an honest miller, whose house, mill, and whole substance had been consumed by fire, which was occasioned by the negligence of an apprentice-boy, and was accordingly relieved as such by the justice. Coming one day to Squire Portman's, at Brinsford, near Blandford, in the character of a rat-catcher, with a hairy cap upon his head, a buff girdle about his waist, and a tame rat in a little box by his side, he boldly marched up to the house in this disguise, though his person was well known by the family, and meeting in the court with Mr. Portman, the Rev. Mr. Bryant, and several other gentlemen whom he well knew, but did not suspect he should be known by them, he accosted them as a rat-catcher, asking if their honours had any rats to kill? Do you understand your business well? replies Mr. Portman. Yes, and please your honour, I have followed it many years, and have been employed in his Majesty's yards and ships. Well, go in and get something to eat, and after dinner we will try your abilities.

Our hero was again accordingly placed at the second table to dinner, and very handsomely entertained; after which he was called into a great parlour, among a large company of gentlemen and ladies. Well, honest rat-catcher, says Mr. Portman, can you lay any schemes to kill the rats without hurting my dogs? Yes, replied Mr. Carew, I shall lay it where even the cat cannot climb to reach it. And what countryman are you? A Devonshire man, please your honour. What's your name? Our hero now perceiving, by some smiles and whispering of the gentlemen, that he was known, replied very composedly, B. a. m. p. s. y. i. d. o. g. M. o. o. r. e. C. a. r. e. w. This occasioned a good deal of mirth: and Mr. Carew asking, What scabby sheep had infected the whole flock? was told Parson Bryant was the man



who had discovered him, none of the other gentlemen knowing him under this disguise: upon which turning to the parson, he asked him, If he had forgot good King Charles' rules? Mr. Pleydell, of St. Andrews, Milbourn, expressed a pleasure at seeing the famous Mr. Bampfylde Moore Carew, saying he had never seen him before: Yes, but you have, replied he, and given me a suit of clothes. Mr. Pleydell testified some surprise at this, and desired to know when it was. Mr. Carew asked him, If he did not remember a poor wretch met him one day at his stable door, with an old stocking round his head instead of a cap, and an old woman's ragged mantle on his shoulders, no shirt on his back, nor stockings to his legs, and scarce any shoes to his feet: and that he asked him if he was mad, to which he replied, No; but a poor unfortunate man, cast away on the coast, and taken up, with eight others, by a Frenchman, the rest of the crew, sixteen in number, being all drowned; and that Mr. Pleydell having asked what countryman he was, gave him a guinea and a suit of clothes. Then says Mr. Pleydell, I will give you a guinea I shall know you again, come in what shape you will: the same said Mr. Seymour of Handford, some of this company asserting to the contrary of this, they desired our hero to try his ingenuity upon them, and then discover himself to convince them of it. This being agreed upon, and having received a handsome contribution of this company, he took his leave; but Parson Bryant followed him out and acquainted him that the same company, and many more would be at Pleydell's on such a day, and advised him to make use of that opportunity to deceive them also, which our hero soon resolved to do. He, suffering all his ingenuity, revolved in his mind, what stratagem was most likely to succeed, at length he fixed upon one, which he thought could not but answer his purpose.

When the day was come, the barber was called in to

make his face as smooth as his art could do, and a woman's gown and other female accoutrements of the largest size were provided for him; having jumped into his petticoats, pinned a large dowd under his chin, and put a high crowned hat on his head, he made a figure so comical, that even Hogarth's humour can scarcely parallel: yet our hero bethought himself of something else, to render his disguise more impetrable: he therefore borrowed a little hump back'd child of a tinker, and two more of some others of his community. There remained now only in what situation to place the children, and it was quickly resolved to tie two upon his back, and to take the other in his arms.

Thus accoutred, and thus hung with helpless infants, he marched forwards for Mr Pleydell's: coming up to the door, he put his hand behind him, and pinched one of the children, which set it a roaring, this gave the alarm to the dogs, so that between their barking and the child's crying, the whole family was sufficiently disturbed: out comes the maid crying, Carry away the children, old woman, they disturb the ladies. Good bless their ladyships, I am the poor unfortunate grandmother of these poor helpless infants, whose dear mother and all they had was burnt at the dreadful fire of Kirton, and hope the good ladies, for God's sake, will bestow something on the poor famishing, starving infants: this moving story was accompanied with tears upon which, in goes the maid to acquaint the ladies of this melancholly tale, while the good grandmother kept pinching one or other of the children, that they might play their parts to greater perfection: the maid soon returned with half a crown from the ladies, and some good broth, with which he went into the courtyard to eat, (understanding the gentlemen were not at the house) and got one of the underservants, whom he met, to give some to the children on his back. He had not long been there, before the gentlemen all came

in together who accosted him with, Where did you come from old woman? From Kirton, please your honours, where the poor unhappy mother of these helpless babes was burnt to death by the flames, and all they had consumed. Damn you, said one of the gentlemen (who is well known by the name of Worthy Sir, and was particularly acquainted with Mr Carew) there has been more money collected for Kirton, than ever Kirton was worth; however, he gave this good old grandmother a shilling, the other gentleman likewise relieved her, commiserating her age and her burden of so many helpless infants, not one of them discovering our hero in the old woman, who received their alms very thankfully, and pretended to go away; but the gentlemen were not got well into the house before their ears were saluted with a tantivee, tantivee, and halloo to the dogs, upon which they turned about supposing it to be some brother sportsman, but seeing nobody, Worthy Sir swore the old woman they had relieved was Carew; a servant therefore was dispatched to bring her back and she brought into the parlour among the gentlemen, where being examined, he confessed himself to be the famous Mr Damsyde Moore Carew, which made the gentlemen very merry, and they were now all employed in uncrusting the children from his back, and observing the features and dress of his grandmother, which afforded them sufficient entertainment; they afterwards rewarded our hero for the mirth he procured them.

It was about this time the good old King of the mendicants, named Clause Patch, well known in the city of London, and most parts of England, finished a life of true glory, being spent in promoting the welfare of his people. A little before his death, finding the decays of nature increase every day, and his final dissolution approach, he called together all his children, to the number of eighteen, and summoned as many of his subjects as were within any convenient distance, being willing that the last spark of his life should go



out in the service of his people; this summons was obeyed with heavy hearts by his loving subjects, and at the day and place appointed, a great number assembled together.

Still zealous for the success of his motely subjects, old King Patch laid down to them the rules by which he had been able to effectually to levy contributions from the public; and after a long exhortation, finished his life by conjuring them that in choosing his successor they should pay no partial regard to his family, but let him only who was most worthy reign over them.—Thus ending, he reclined his head to the chair, and expired without a sigh.

Never was there a scene of more real distress, or more unfeigned grief, than appeared now among his children and subjects. Nothing was heard but sighs and exclamations of their loss. When the first transports of their grief were over, they sent the sorrowful news to all the houses that were frequented by their community in every part of the kingdom: at the same time summoning them to repair to the city of London on a certain day, in order to the election of a new king.

Before the day appointed for the election, a vast concourse of mendicants flocked from all parts of the kingdom to the city of London; for every member of the community has a right to vote in the choice of their king.

Our hero was now one of the candidates, and endeavoured to the electors so long a list of bold and ingenious stratagems which he had executed, and made so graceful and majestic an appearance in his person, that he had a considerable majority (though there were ten candidates for the same honour): upon which he was declared duly elected, and hailed by the whole assembly King of the Mendicants: the public register of their actions being immediately committed to his care, and homage done him by all the assembly; the



whole concluded with great feasting and rejoicing,  
and the electors sung the following ode:

**C**AST your nabs \* and cares away:

This is Maunder's holiday:

In the world, look out and see

Where so happy a king as † He?

II.

At the crowning of our king,

Thus we ever dance and sing:

Where's the nation lives so free,

And so merrily, as we?

III.

Be it peace, or be it war,

Here at liberty we are:

Hang all Plamenbecks, ‡ we cry,

We the Coffin Queres § defy.

IV.

We enjoy our ease and rest,

To the field we are not press'd,

And when the taxes are increas'd,

We are not a penny cels'd.

V.

Nor will any go to law,

With a Maunder ¶ for a straw,

All which happiness he brags

Is only owing to his rags.

Our hero, therefore, notwithstanding the particular  
privilege of his office, was as active in his stratagema  
ever, and ready to encounter any difficulties which  
seemed to promise success, of which the following is  
an instance. Happening to be in the parish of Fleet,  
near Portland Race, in Dorsetshire, he heard, in the  
evening, of a ship in imminent danger of being cast  
away, she having been driven on some shoals. Early

\* Hats or caps.

† Pointing to their new made King.

‡ Constables.

§ Justices of the peace.

¶ A Beggar.

in the morning before it was well light, he pulls off his clothes, which he hung into a deep pit, and then unseen by any one, swims to the vessel which now parted asunder, he only found one of the crew alive, who was hanging by his hands on the side of the vessel, the rest being either washed overboard, or drowned in attempting to swim to shore. Never was there a more piteous object than this poor wretch hanging between life and death: Mr. Carew immediately offered him his assistance to get him to shore, at the same time inquiring the name of the vessel and her master, what cargo on board, whence she came, and whither bound? The poor wretch replied, she belonged to Bristol, Captain Griffin master, came from Hamburg, and had seven men and a boy on board, at the same time our hero was pressing him to let go his hold, and commit himself to his care, and he would endeavour to swim with him to shore; but when the danger is so imminent, and death stands before our eyes, it was no easy matter to be persuaded to quit his hold of the vessel, at last a large sea broke upon the wreck, and overwhelmed him in the great deep. Mr. Carew was in no little danger, but being an excellent swimmer, he with great difficulty got to shore, though not without hurt, the sea throwing him with great violence on the beach, whereby one of his arms was wounded. By this time a great number of spectators were gathered on the strand, who rejoiced to see Mr. Carew come to shore alive, supposing him to be one of the poor wretches belonging to the ship: naked, spent with fatigue, and wounded, he raised a feeling pity in all the spectators, and procured certificates and passes from many Gentlemen, with which he easily levied very handsome contributions. Some time before this he had frightened Justice Leimbriidge's horse, which ran off and threw his worship, and he swore revenge. So as our hero was coming through Dorsetshire the old squire recognised him and had him committed. Nor did our hero remain long in uncertainty, for

at the next Quarter Sessions the old Justice so eagerly  
 pressed his charges, that in spite of our hero's determined  
 composure of countenance and pleading innocence, he  
 was condemned to be transported to Maryland in  
 North America for seven years; but as he had a great  
 many fellow sufferers, and till his departure was con-  
 stantly visited by his friends, the time was far from  
 seeming tedious. Thus leaving the reader to balance  
 the painful heartfelt pangs which our hero encountered  
 in the thoughts of leaving his people, whom he had  
 so short a time reigned over; his wife and daughter,  
 whom he loved with great tenderness; with his thirst  
 for encountering new exploits, and examining the man-  
 ners and customs of foreign parts, we may now suppose  
 him safely arrived in the great river Delaware with no-  
 thing remarkable occurring during the passage, but  
 as laying a considerable bet with the Captain that he  
 would be in England before him. When the ship came  
 to an anchor, and they had fired a gun, a great many  
 planters came on board in canoes to buy the convicts, and  
 the Captain plied the bowl well it was a work before  
 many bargains were made. Our hero reconceiving that  
 fortune favours the bold, unobserved slipped down the  
 ship's sides into one of the Canoes, and paddled him-  
 self, with as much silence as possible, towards the shore;  
 but the noise he made soon gave the alarm, and the  
 Captain inquiring found Carew had set off for Old Eng-  
 land to win his wager. All hands then began the pur-  
 suit, and the river was soon covered with panges.  
 Carew heard them, but got to shore, and instantly took  
 to the woods; he no sooner had got up into a tree  
 than he heard the Captain and Crew swearing at him,  
 and the planters assuring them that they would positive-  
 ly get him in the morning. However no sooner were  
 they gone than he proceeded further into the woods;  
 all morning, then he again climbed into a tree and  
 discovered a lone house, near the skirts of the woods;  
 and saw all the family (as he supposed) going out to  
 see tobacco, and the dog following them; this was a



joyful sight to him. As soon, therefore, as he saw the family were out of sight, he came down from the tree, and ventured into the house, where he found no only to satisfy his hunger, but what might be deemed luxury in his present condition, for there was jolly cake powell, a sort of Indian corn bread, and good omani which is kidney beans grinded with Indian corn sifted then put into a pot to boil, and eat with molasses. Seeing so many dainties, he did not hesitate long, but hunger pressing, sat down and eat the omani with as much composure as if he had been invited thereto by the owner of it; and knowing that hunger and necessity are bound by no laws of honour, he took the liberty of borrowing the jolly cake powell, and a leg of fine pork, then hastens back to the tree with his booty.

Being thus stocked with provisions he made the best of his way to Ogle Town that night, and so to Old Town. In the dawn of the morning he came in sight of Duck's Creek. Knowing he could not remain concealed on that side of the Delaware, which river was so broad it was so wild to attempt swimming it; and seeing some horses grazing thereabout, he catches one of them, resolving to hazard death rather than slavery, so stripped himself and mounting the horse, put him forwards. The horse snorted and neighed to his companions, but made the opposite shore with all his strength. Our hero kissed the horse his deliverer, and set forwards to Boston making a tolerable subsistence on the road by his old trade; from whence he agreed to take the run with Captain Ball of the Mary, for £15 15 gallons of rum, 10 pounds of tobacco, and ten pipes; and after a short passage found himself at Boston. From whence he soon again joined his family and community, to the very great joy of them all; and after a long life spent in promoting the good of it, died much and justly regretted by them all; and his trust will be much admired by all who read this true history.

19 JUL 22  
19 JUL 52